



Quote of the month

Pope Paul VI (submitted by Bill Webb)

"Somebody should tell us, right at the start of our lives that we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit, every minute of every day. Do it! I say. Whatever you want to do, do it now! There are only so many tomorrows."

Finding out radio waves are faster than helicopters!

By Russell Swett

Early morning on a perfect mid-summer day I was asked by my sister for a ride down to Oxford from Metamora for some function she felt necessary to attend on a Sunday. I thought sleeping in would've been a better choice. She knew that this would require a helmet and getting on the back of my Kawasaki Eliminator 900 as this was my preferred transportation above 35 degrees.

Though I did enjoy the extremely low traffic on the ride down I was still thinking of the sleep I was missing, and did have her keep the helmet with her as I didn't have a secure way of carrying it back home. As I rode out of Oxford I noticed a helicopter taking my route north, and as I watched it create some distance between us I pondered...I wonder how fast he's going? I still believe many wonder about this but at the all-knowing age of 18 I didn't hesitate in finding the answer for myself. As I down shifted to 3rd with a right hand twist to the limit of the throttle I leaned into a position to have my eyesight just above my gauges. I continued thru 4th, 5th and into 6th where I found myself looking between the gauges with the feel of my heavy

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Editor – Ian Orr

leather jacket like paper flapping in the triple digit wind (140+). More importantly the gap between us was starting to close and soon found myself passing him. Since this was a fact finding mission I slowed down to maintain a consistent distance to acquire my answer (130ish). With the feeling of accomplishment I slowed to a comfortable speed of about 7 mph over the speed limit just after entering into Lapeer County.

After a couple miles I crested a hill and noticed a Metamora township officer sitting on the shoulder of the road positioned to go my direction. As I rode by he pulled in behind me, getting kind of close, before flipping on the patriotic light dance atop his roof. Looking through my side mirror I can see it is Walt, and having a good relationship with him I thought to myself, this shouldn't be a problem, I was only 7mph over, so I pulled to the gravel shoulder. I flipped my side stand down to catch the edge of the pavement, dismounted and removed my helmet as he started walking towards me. When he was about 20' out I greeted him with a "Hi Walt how's it going?" with a happy to see you look on my face. His response, with about 3' between us, was a simple "The Oxford boys wanna talk to YOU!!" and he walked back and sat in his car. I felt my stomach sink beneath my kickstand.

I leaned against my bike on the side of the road for what seemed to be an eternity. Suddenly a fully lit up Oxford officer crested the hill at a significant speed and then came to a sliding halt, throwing gravel and dust everywhere behind Walt's car. The door flew open and, as he exited his patrol car, all I could see was Buford T Justice times two. This dude was BIG and pissed off and I was scared!! He was focused on me and rapidly coming at me

(I may have tinkled a bit, not sure). As he was passing the Metamora car Walt threw his door open directly in front of him, stopping him in his tracks, and exited his car. Now what I realize is the only thing stopping me from being completely dismembered and thrown in the ditch to rot is Walt and his car door. As I watch, not being able to hear the words, I see Walt holding his hands in from of him to calm Buford T who is a full head height taller than Walt. With a red face and hands alternatingly pointing at me I felt a low chance of surviving this "fact finding mission" I had so eagerly entered.

After some long discussion time had passed Walt stepped aside and Buford came directly at me stopping leaning over me with less than 6" between our faces and ordered "License, Registration, Insurance, NOW". I raised my trembling hand with the already prepared standards; he snatched them and swiftly returned to his car without another word. I was given plenty of time to think about the possibilities of what could happen while I sat on the side of the road. I wondered things like... How much could I sell my bike for? What is it worth? I surely won't be able to afford insurance after this! Then my thoughts were extinguished by the slamming of his door.

As he approached I couldn't have been more sheepish. He handed me my papers and spoke sternly, "I know for a fact you tried to outrun me but Walt thinks you're a good kid, If it was my choice I'd be taking you to jail right now" I tried to respond "No Sir I didn't..." but he wasn't interested to hear anything from me and continued, "I was sitting in a parking lot just north of Oxford when you went flying by and I couldn't even catch you with radar, I was exceeding 95 miles per hour trying to catch you and you pulled away from me" He then handed me my ticket written for "Breaking the Basic Speed Law" but noted at the bottom of it "exceeded 95 miles per hour was unable to pace". He made it very clear not to try to fight this ticket. Then followed with "I don't know how stupid you are or how fast you were going but if I ever catch you in Oxford AT ALL you'll wish you were never born." He then turned

around walked back to his car and left. As I sat there still absorbing what was said Walt approached me and followed it up with "Well that should just about take care of that type of excursion, won't it?" I softly replied "Yes Sir, Walt Sir".

A special thanks to Russell Swett for his article featured this month.

Remember... All published articles earn a free breakfast, entry into the year-end newsletter drawing AND your articles will be appreciated by your fellow members and the newsletter editor, and you will also earn points toward the **2018 MOTY Award!**



MSTR Heads Up

Here's a listing of some of the upcoming local events and meetings within the next few weeks. If you know of a local motorcycle event in Michigan or Ontario the MSTR would be interested in attending send Ian Orr an e-mail at Communications@mstriders.com with the details.

MABDR Movie Premieres

Monday, March 19, 2018, @ 8:00 PM
The Maple Theatre, 4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield, MI 48301

Discover the Mid-Atlantic Backcountry Discovery Route, a scenic dual-sport adventure on dirt, gravel and paved roads through remote parts of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Starting in Damascus, VA, and ending in Lawrenceville, Tioga County, PA. This 1,080-mile route primarily uses forest roads and rural country lanes through the Appalachian mountains, majestic forests, bucolic farming landscapes, Amish country, and locations that played pivotal roles in early American history.

Film starts at 8:00 pm, but attendees are encouraged to arrive early and stay late to mingle at the Maple's excellent coffee house, bar and restaurant. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased online in advance at The Maple Theatre, or at the door. For more information, call 248-750-1030. This event is presented by Clinton Baller and BMW Motorcycles of Southeastern Michigan.

MSTR EAST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, March 24, 2018, @ 9:00 AM
Doc's Sports Retreat, 19265 Victor Parkway
Livonia, MI

Doc's is located east of I-275, north of 7 mile road and across from Dave and Buster's.

Gregg Mitchell will be moderating this meeting

NOTE: There will be a Garage Sale event held during the breakfast meeting. MSTRiders are invited to bring their unused motorcycle riding gear and parts to sell (no tires). All items must be marked with the asking price and will be on display on the way to the breakfast buffet. There will not be an auction. All unsold items must be removed after the Garage Sale.

MSTR WEST Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, April 14, 2018, @ 9:00 AM
Alibi Bar & Grill, 1394 E. Riverside Drive,
Ionia, MI www.alibionia.com

Please send an email to Gala (gschip@me.com) so she can plan on providing breakfast for everyone who attends. Breakfast will be available for \$11 plus tax & tip.

Keith Danielson will be moderating this meeting.

MSTR Sunday & Wednesday rides

The Sunday and Wednesday morning local rides will begin as soon as the weather permits.



MSTR 2018 Rides

In 2018 we'll have a similar number of events for MSTRiders to attend.

The dates for many events have already been set and are listed on the Events page of the MSTR Website (www.mstriders.com)

MoArk Adventure 11

April 18-21, 2018
Missouri/Arkansas

This ride is a "curve-chaser's" delight. Three days of riding and 1,000 tire-shredding miles in the Ozarks to start out your riding season. Check your tires for tread prior to this ride – the roads here will chew them up aggressively.

Ride HQ: Day 1 (April 18):
Holiday Inn Express (www.hiexpress.com)
820 Market St, Farmington, MO 63640
Phone: 573-701-0505

Note: For the budget conscious the Super 8 across the road is an alternative

Ride HQ: Days 2 & 3 (April 19 & 20):
Comfort Inn (www.comfortinn.com)
1031 Highland Circle, Mountain Home, AR,
7265.
Phone: 870-424-9000

This ride begins in Farmington, MO. We'll meet there for dinner on Wednesday, April 18. There will be a mandatory rider's meeting at the Holiday Inn Express around 9:00 PM following a dinner at Dexter BBQ (next door to the hotel).

On Thursday, we'll be taking a twisty route from Farmington, MO to Mountain Home, AR. We'll be staying Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20 at the Comfort Inn. On Friday we'll be riding on some of the best roads in Arkansas that are south and west of Mountain Home. We'll return to Farmington, MO from Mountain Home on Saturday, April 21.

To join us at MoArk 11 add your name to the sign-up list at any of our monthly meetings or send an email to Gregg as noted below. Be sure to make your hotel reservations early. Rider Information Packages and GPS routes will only be sent to those who have signed up.

Ride Organizer: Gregg Mitchell
g.mitchell0549@gmail.com



Michigan Renegade Mountain Ride
May 13–19, 2018
Waynesville, NC

There will be two days of travel and five days of riding on some of the best motorcycle roads in the US. We stay at one location and, each day, choose from any one of 20 different routes. Most riders will ride anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 miles so be sure to have good tires with lots of tread.

Ride HQ: All week
Best Western Smoky Mountain Inn
130 Shiloh Trail, Waynesville, North Carolina
28786
Phone: 828-456-4402

A block of rooms are being held as follows:

- Check-in: Sunday, May 13, check-out: Saturday, May 19.
- \$75/night + tax. Same rate for King and Double, 24hr cancellation. Request the MSTRiders rooms and rate

The ride begins and ends in Waynesville, NC. There will be a mandatory rider's meeting at the hotel on Sunday, May 13 at 8pm.

On Wednesday, May 16 we'll have a group dinner at Fat Buddy's BBQ. You must indicate on the sign-up sheet if you plan to join us.

The hotel owner added a BBQ grill for our use, so about one week before the event starts we'll pick one warm and dry evening to have an onsite group cookout. Those who want to join in can either bring their own food for the BBQ or, as we did last year, pick it up at a local grocery store.

To join us for MR2 add your name to the sign-up list at any of our monthly meetings or send an email to Ian as noted below. Be sure to make your hotel reservations early. Event information including Rider Information Packages and GPS routes will only be sent to those who have signed up.

Ride Organizer: Ian Orr
Communications@mstriders.com



For 2018 the MSO event, held in mid-June, will be put on hiatus to encourage MSTRiders to attend the new 7R2 event.

7R2
7 Ranges Ride
June 28–July 1, 2018
St. Clairsville, OH

If you are like me, you are counting the days until riding season. You might even be thinking about which club rides to go on this summer. And I'm here to give you a new choice and make the decision more difficult. But first, a few gratuitous pictures of twisty roads to get you in the mood:



Exploring always has been in my DNA, so the idea of having a new ride in a new area is very appealing. After some scouting, I'm ready to offer the "7 Ranges Ride" or 7R2 for weekend of June 28 thru July 1.

Where – The routes are north of the Marietta routes, sharing a few roads along the way, and run in Ohio, W. Virginia, and Pennsylvania. We almost make it to Maryland, but the roads are better in WV, so I skipped Maryland.

Base of Operations – St. Clairsville, Ohio, a suburb of Wheeling. Towing time is the same as Marietta.

Routes – At the moment, I have 5 routes between 240 and 300 miles long. The roads are very good with lots of variety. They range from narrow backroads with no centerline to a 30 miles stretch of smooth highway sweepers. The countryside varies from quaint farmland to hollars down by the creek to forest on good size mountains.

As for the routes themselves, we have The Dragon, Ohiopyle Falls, Wymp's Gap, Mohican River, and Gnadenhutten. In truth, we don't actually ride into Gnadenhutten, only nearby, but I just like saying it.

The Dragon – Down at MR2 you only get the tail, but here you get the whole Dragon. Actually, in this part of West Virginia, the highways are named after the local sports team, so the Dragon Highway is named after the Cameron Dragons. We also have the Hundred Hornets Highway and the North Marion Husky Highway. These roads are mainly state highways with higher speeds and good sight lines. But that doesn't mean they are boring. They put a smile on my face everytime.

Ohiopyle Falls – Ohiopyle is in the heart of the Youghiogheny River country. The mountains here are bigger than the hills we normally see in Ohio and WV. The Ohiopyle route is mainly in W. Virginia and Pennsylvania. It is pretty evenly divided between small backroads and higher speed highways. My favorite sweeper section is on this route.

For those architecture enthusiasts, there are two Frank Lloyd Wright houses near Ohiopyle that are open for tours in the summer. Kentuck Knob is on the route just west of Ohiopyle and Falling Water is just east of Ohiopyle about 2 miles off the route. If you shortcut the first part of the Ohiopyle route by freeway/toll road, you can save almost 1½ hours and have time to take a tour. I am told that the tickets sell out in advance, so it's best to plan this option well in advance.



Wymp's Gap – The Wymp's Gap ride runs in W. Virginia and Pennsylvania and has an extra dollop of small roads with tighter twists and narrow roads. Great roads, but you may be tired by the end of the day.

Mohican River – This entire area is the home of many Amish communities, so you may see Amish on any of the routes. But the route that comes the closest to a large group of Amish is the Mohican River route. It runs along the edge of the Holmes County Amish communities. Make sure you wave to the Amish. The young people especially seem to be intrigued by motorcycles. Of course, that also means an interesting choice for lunch. The first opportunity is a small town bar in Glenmont. But if you are curious to try something else, there are two Amish staffed restaurants near Charm, Ohio, a small side trip off the route. Both restaurants are listed on the GPS.

History – You may ask why name it the 7 Ranges Ride? In the 1780's, when the United States was a new country, the first survey by the new government was along the frontier in the eastern part of Ohio. It ran 7 townships west from Stubenville and south along the Ohio River with the most southern townships touching the river east of Marietta. A range is the east-west dimension of a township, so the survey was known as the 7 Ranges Survey and the area of Ohio we are riding in is still known as the 7 Ranges country.

The roads have an interesting history too. In 1796, Ebenezer Zane got funding from Congress to make a settlement road going west from Wheeling that arced southwest

across Ohio and rejoined the Ohio River at Maysville, KY. It was known as Zane's Trace.

In the 1830's, Congress authorized the first federal highway. It started in Cumberland, Maryland (the end of navigable waters on the Potomac), ran northwest to Wheeling, along the route of Zane's Trace, and then straight west to the Mississippi River. As the first federal highway, it is known as the National Road and today's US40 mainly follows the route of the old National Road. Our route wanders along the National Road on both sides of the river.

If you decide to ride the 9 miles into Wheeling for dinner and you cross from Wheeling Island to Wheeling on Virginia Street, you will be crossing the Ohio River on a suspension bridge from the original National Road. When it was built in 1849, it was the largest suspension bridge in the world. Still in use with weight limitations, it remains the oldest vehicular suspension bridge still in use.

I hope I have wetted your appetite for riding some new country and will join me on the 7 Ranges Ride.

Ride Organizer: Jac Brown
jac.brown@2020comm.net

MSTR Newsletter & Website

The MSTR Newsletter and Website (www.mstriders.com/) belong to you, the riders. They both can only be as good and as interesting as you make them. If you've got something to say about a ride, your bike, perhaps a trip you're planning, whatever, send it in for the newsletter and/or website to:

Ian Orr: Communications@mstriders.com

MSTR Photo Gallery

The MSTR maintains a SmugMug photo gallery (<https://mstriders.smugmug.com/>) to allow riders to upload and download pictures of various club events. Upload and download passwords are sent out to participants for each event. Click on the above link or visit the MSTR website and select the MSTR Photo Gallery link to check out all the event pictures.

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